

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS

October 22, 2019

**Winter Shelter in the San Gabriel Valley**

According to the 2019 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count conducted by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), there are more than 5,000 people experiencing homeless in Service Planning Area 3 (SPA 3), which encompasses the San Gabriel Valley (SGV). More than 70% of the SGV's homeless population is unsheltered, which means they are living on the street, in makeshift shelters, or in vehicles. As temperatures drop, people who are unsheltered are particularly vulnerable to extreme weather conditions, and their health can quickly deteriorate. Although the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Board) has taken a number of actions in an attempt to address the lack of interim shelter in SPA 3, efforts to create new shelter have not yet yielded results.

Since 1994, LAHSA has administered the Winter Shelter Program (WSP) in a few designated locations throughout Los Angeles County (County), providing temporary emergency shelter during the cold weather season for adults experiencing homelessness.

**MOTION**

SOLIS \_\_\_\_\_

RIDLEY-THOMAS \_\_\_\_\_

KUEHL \_\_\_\_\_

BARGER \_\_\_\_\_

HAHN \_\_\_\_\_

The WSP is set to launch on December 1, 2019 to provide temporary, overnight shelter to a limited number of individuals. In partnership with the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation (Parks), the County has also previously activated an Augmented Winter Shelter Program (AWSP) to provide additional emergency shelter sites to supplement the existing WSP sites when these are at capacity and harsh weather conditions warrant activation. In addition to a bed to sleep in, WSP locations provide adults with showers, meals, and access to supportive services and housing assistance. Some former WSP locations have converted to year-round, 24-hour shelters, which has resulted in a shortage of WSP beds.

In March 2019, Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda L. Solis requested that the gym at Bassett Park (previously utilized as an AWSP site) be converted to a Winter Shelter when there was a shortfall of beds towards the end of the 2018-2019 WSP. According to LAHSA, this winter, it is expected that there will once again be a shortage of beds in SPA 3.

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors

1. Direct the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation (Parks) to work with the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) to activate the gym at Bassett Park as a Winter Shelter Program site from December 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020.
2. Instruct Parks to work with the CEO Homeless Initiative and LAHSA to conduct an assessment of all assets managed by Parks in Service Planning Area 3 and, in consultation with Supervisorial Districts 1, 4, and 5, identify one or more

locations that could serve as an Augmented Winter Shelter Program site.

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HLS: jv